



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**Department of
Agricultural Commissioner/
Weights and Measures**



Kurt E. Floren

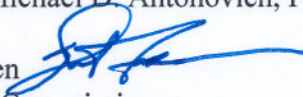
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

<http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>

12300 Lower Azusa Road
Arcadia, California 91006-5872

DATE: October 31, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman, Third District
Supervisor Gloria Molina, First District
Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, Second District
Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District

FROM: Kurt E. Floren 
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

SUBJECT: **MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY ERADICATION**

A fifth specimen of Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly), a major agricultural pest, was detected on Monday, October 29, in Rancho Palos Verdes. This specimen was trapped by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) in an International Pheromone McPhail Trap slightly over one mile south/southeast of one of the two sites where a total of four specimens were detected on Wednesday, October 24. Like the previous, this specimen was a sexually mature female.

In response, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will be augmenting their current eradication operation to include this third location in their Spinosad bait applications to host and ornamental trees on properties within 200 meters of the finds. CDFA crews began applying the bait at and around the third location today, Wednesday, October 31.

The 57 square-mile quarantine area noted in my October 25 letter is anticipated to be amended to 59 square miles. This change is not due to the newest detection, but rather due to justified concerns regarding risks associated with plant material cargo entering and leaving the Los Angeles port complex. The proposed boundary includes the northwest portion of the port. CDFA and the USDA are in communication with the Los Angeles Field Office of the Department of Homeland Security, Customs Border Protection, to determine the potential volumes of import and export agricultural commodities that may be affected.

Medfly is one of the world's most destructive insect pests, damaging hundreds of different fruits and vegetables. Females pierce the skin of produce and deposit eggs that hatch into maggots, which tunnel and feed on the flesh, rendering the produce unfit for consumption.

We have informed the City Managers of Rolling Hills and Rancho Palos Verdes, and your Board offices in the treatment area to enable staff to answer questions from the public. I will continue to update you as details become available and warrant an update.

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
R. Doyle Campbell, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Public Safety
Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer
Board Deputies

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